



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706 - TEL: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866
Internet Homepage: <http://www.idwr.state.id.us>

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SPECIAL PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS PLANNED
DURING BIOENERGY 2002 CITIZENS' NIGHT ACTIVITIES

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For Media Information Contact:
Dick Larsen - (208) 327-7933

Special free presentations from scientists who are experts in ethanol and biodiesel, anaerobic digestion, and gasification will be held during the special Bioenergy 2002 Citizens' Night Monday (Sept. 23) at the Centre on the Grove, the Idaho Energy Division announced today.

Citizens' Night is free to the public and will run from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Centre on the Grove. It is the first time ever the general public has been able to view dozens of exhibits and poster setups that depict a variety of bioenergy issues from around the world. It is also the first time the public has been able to meet and visit with the more than 200 scientists and researchers from the 30 countries represented in the 10th biennial Bioenergy 2002 conference.

The 30-minute Citizens Night presentations, which will feature a short overview of the topic area followed by a question and answer session, are designed to give area residents a once in a lifetime chance to get first hand information about the topics. Each presentation will be given twice during the evening, at 7:15 and 8:15.

"This is a wonderful chance for anyone interested in the science behind bioenergy, the environmental advantages of bioenergy or the economic opportunity presented by bioenergy to learn first hand about the topic and to get their answers straight from the experts," said John Crockett of the Idaho Energy Division.

The Idaho Energy Division, along with the University of Idaho and the U.S. Department of Energy is hosting the conference. Citizens' Night has been made possible by a donation from the J. R. Simplot Company.

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Anaerobic digestion is a biological process that uses bacteria to break down organic wastes such as cow manure, food processing wastes, etc., and produce methane gas. Anaerobic digestion is being seen by many as an effective way to solve odor and water quality problems caused by waste from large dairies or animal feed lots.

Ethanol and biodiesel are fuels made from organic products. Ethanol can be produced from such things as corn, grain, potatoes, sugar beets, cheese whey, even garbage. Biodiesel is produced from natural products such as rapeseed, mustard seed, soybeans and also from waste cooking oil, lard and grease. Both ethanol and biodiesel can be added to petroleum fuels to help cut back on the need for imported crude oil and to achieve significant reductions in harmful exhaust emissions.

Gasification is a process using high temperatures to convert biomass into a synthetic gas that can be used in place of natural gas to generate electricity or as a basic raw product to produce chemicals and liquid fuels.

Bioenergy 2002 runs through Thursday at the Centre on the Grove.

For more information contact Dick Larsen, 327-7933.